

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

SECRET

SUBJECT Maintenance of Casualty Records
in the Soviet Army

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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[redacted] a detachment which was responsible for the burial of Soviet Army casualties during wartime [redacted]

In the Soviet Army in wartime, casualty lists are drawn up by company and battalion commanders in their morning reports (SUTOCHNAYA VEDOMOST) of estimated unit strengths. The morning reports are forwarded to the Regimental Personnel Section (KACHALNIK STROYEVOGO OTDELENIYA) which compiles a consolidated report. The consolidated report is forwarded to Army Group and Central Headquarters in Moscow. Requests for information from next of kin of a deceased soldier are accepted by the Army Group and Central Headquarters in Moscow. However, notification of next of kin is generally handled by the Regimental Personnel Section which sends out a standard form to next of kin giving the place of burial, date of death, and indicates whether or not the soldier is missing in action. [redacted] the Regimental Personnel Section did its work inefficiently and in many cases next of kin were never notified.

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Mass burial on the battlefield is standard procedure in the Soviet Army except in the case of very important people. Common graves are marked by a monument commemorating the action of the deceased in the battle in which they fought. In peacetime individual graves are provided for soldiers in the areas of garrisons and camps.

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Enlisted men and officers in the Soviet Army carry identification which includes their name, date of birth, blood type, and the address of next of kin. The data is carried in a small, round, plastic tube which is carried in the individual's pocket. Enlisted men also carry a service booklet (SLUZHEBNAYA

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KNIZHKA) which is similar to the US Army form twenty. Officers carry, in addition to the identification tube, a certificate of identification which is comparable to the enlisted man's service booklet.

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When a casualty is sent to a hospital no notification is sent to the next of kin. If the soldier should die in the hospital, the hospital personnel section is responsible for notifying the next of kin. The hospital personnel section is efficiently operated, in contrast to the Regimental Personnel Section.

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